leather and leather manufactures, textiles, chemicals and allied products, electronic items, engineering items, etc. The main items of import from Czechoslovakia would consist of: diesel generating sets, printing machinery, capital goods, rolled steel products, seamless pipes, casings & pipings, plastic materials, newsprint, ball, roller and taper bearings, etc.

Import of Timber

1653. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total import of timber during the last three years, year-wise and the value thereof;

(b) whether such imports are proposed to be encouraged to save our forests; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to assist the timber importers and for the proper distribution of timber all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) As per the statistical data available, a statement showing the import of wood in rough or roughly squared form and value thereof during the years 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 is attached herewith (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Import of timber has been allowed with a view to conserve the country's depleting forest resources. Under the current Policy, import of all kinds of timber logs whether round, rectangular or square (if sawn the minimum size of the log should be 8" x 8" x 10') is allowed under Open General Licence to all persons for stock and sale. The import is allowed at a concessional rate of 10 per cent import duty. Consequently actual users can import timber for their own use or procure the imported timber from stockists.

Statement

(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Description of item	Unit of Quantity	1982-83		1983-84		1984-85	
			Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Sawlogs and veneer of Logs of Coniferous species.	Cubic Metres.	133	1·46	1039 Tonnes 16 C.U.M.	19·59	180	1·80
2	Sawlogs and Veneer logs of Non-Coniferous species.	Do.	10022	244·56	7825	140·69	19528	285·77
3	Pitprope, Poles, Pilling posts and other wood in the rough n.e.s.	Tonnes	5078	62·45	24	1·69	75	6·13
	TOTAL			308·47		162·07		293·70

SOURCE : I. *For 1982-83 & 1983-84* : Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. II (Imports) published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics Calcutta.

II. *For 1984-85* : Advance data received in the Ministry of Commerce (Economic Division) from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.